V. CONTINUOUS WAGE AND BENEFIT HISTORY (CYBH) SYSTEM

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Continuous Wage and Benefit Aistory (CWBH) System

The Continuous Wage and Benefit History (CWBH) system is a pilot project involving 14 States. The current project began in 1976 with a work group consisting of Department of Labor staff interested in unemployment insurance. The purpose of CWBH is to develop a data base at the State and national level for unemployment insurance research, management information and reporting. The data base will consist of continuous or longitudinal data over time as well as current monthly data. Employment wage data and unemployment claims data are collected for a sample of individuals in each State. Demographic and economic data obtained from sample unemployed individuals are included in the data base.

As of March 1, there are six States reporting CNBH data - Idaho, lowa, Missouri, New Mexico, New York and Utah.

Following are copies of the first four issues of the publication, CWBH Interchange, which is produced cooperatively by the South Carolina and Washington State employment security agencies in order to promote communication among the 14 pilot States.

THE CWBH INTERCHANGE

FIRST ISSUE OF THE CWBH INTERCHANGE

THE CWBH INTERCHANGE is intended to serve as a communication vehicle to transmit useful information concerning the status of the CWBH project. Designed primarily for the CWBH pilot project states (but also for other Employment Security Agencies and Department of Labor regional/national roffice staff), THE CWBH INTERCHANGE is planned to be issued bimonthly or quarterly depending on the quantity of contributed news items.

Currently, THE CWBH INTERCHANGE is organized, edited, and typed by the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. Printing and distribution are handled by the State of Washington Employment Security Department.

Any comments, questions, suggestions, or pertinent articles for THE CWBH INTER-CHANGE should be sent to:

> Mr. Douglas S. Potter, Room 617 S.C. Employment Security Commission Post Office Box 995 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

MEETINGS

The next EDPUG (Electronic Data Processing Users Group) meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 10, 1979 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The next CWBH Conference is tentatively scheduled for the week of November 12, 1979 in San Francisco (maybe).

THE EDIT AND AUDIT SYSTEM

The EDPUG recommendations for improvement in documentation of the Edit and Audit System are being incorporated into the system. Presently it is expected that the Edit and Audit Program will be transmitted to the States no later than October 1, 1979.



CMBH EDP USER GROUP

The CWBH User Group (EDPUG) was established at the Seattle CWBH Conference in April 1979. The first meeting of that group was held June 26-28, 1979, at the UISDC in Baton Rouge, La.

At the first meeting of the group, J.J. Quargnenti of Georgia was elected chairman with Jim Sheley of Pennsylvania elected vice-chairman. The eight State members (J.J., Jim. Pat Ellis - South Carolina, Richard Juve - Idaho, Stan Charlton - Utah, Orleta Wright - Louisiana, and Ronnie Blake, Alternate - North Carolina) met on the first day to formulate the group's objectives, draft CWBH DP system recommendations, and review the Edit/Audit system. John Armstrong, a non-voting member of the EDPUG and an employee of the UISDC, was also in attendance. Pat Skees and Miro Medek of the national office joined the group the final two days to discuss the direction of the EDPUG and its functions.

In recognition of the serious staff shortage at the national office, an understanding was reached between the national office representative and the EDPUG whereby movement on a much more timely basis in the EDP area can be made.

The national office gave the EDPUG the responsibility of redrafting the CWBH manual (DP section), reviewing the proposed system enhancements and transmitting to the CWBH States, national office approved, EDP data element and system changes.

Effective July 27, 1979, national office directives will be issued through the EDPUG.

The chairman of the EDPUG, the chairman of the State Users Group, and the national office CWBH Coordinator will meet frequently to coordinate all CWBH changes, instructions, and directives (First meeting - August 14, 1979 - Washington, D.C.).

For more information concerning the work of the EDPUG, contact one of its members.

CWBH STATE USERS GROUP

A report on the last meeting of the CWBH State Users Group on June 12-14, 1979 was sent to all state coordinators by Chuck Wibe so it will not be necessary to again report on it here. However, a couple of items are worth rementioning.

One primary concern of the State Users Group is that the possibility of the Office of Management and Budget cutting CWBH funding puts priority on finishing the collection procedures of UI operational data over those of the CWBH questionnaire (especially in light of an impending recession and possible supplemental questionnaire restructuring).

The State Users Group feels that the next CWBH conference could be really beneficial if a successful workshop on data uses can be conducted. It is not too soon to start thinking about topics and whether your state might be able to make a short presentation on how CWBH data was actually used in your state. Suggestions for the workshop should be sent to:

Mr. Chuck Wibe CWBH State Users Group Chairman Iowa Department of Job Sarvice 1000 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319

TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MISCELLANEOUS CWBH VALUE

Slide Show Available: An introductory slide show presentation is available from South Carolina describing the CWBM project. Anyone interested in borrowing a copy can contact Ernie Avant at the address for South Carolina listed in an earlier article.

Washington DP Tool Shed: We feel sure that all states are using some unique techniques to develop their CWBH system. For example, the Washington State CWBH group has written an assembler language user hook that allows COBOL edit programs to work under control of the VIDEO/370 data entry monitor. We are using a user developed procedure that automatically cross references program and data set usage for our entire system. Input to this cross reference system is IBM OS production JCL. We have written a program that produces a missing questionnaire report by JSC. The report gives totals and percentages showing how successful the JSC was in handing out questionnaires during the month. We are using the Langston-Kitch automatic "Warnier" charting technique to document our system. Washington state has modified the package to produce printable quality documentation via the IBM 3800 page printer. Please note an example in this newsletter. These are some of the tools and techniques that we would be happy to share. What have you been doing that might be shared?

POSSIBLE FUTURE CMBH INTERCHANGE ARTICLES

List of CWBH Pilot State Coordinators and DP contacts.

Summary of pilot state methods of administering supplemental questionnaire.

Status of Mathematica contracted research.

State listing of data submitted by record type, sample size, and amount of data available.

Goals, objectives, and direction of CWBH program.

NOTE: These are just a few ideas. Your comments and contributions are most welcome and should be sent to the address mentioned earlier. Also, from time to time R&A and/or DP personnel may be asked (voluntarily, of course) to submit articles similar to the ones submitted by Washington and New Mexico in this issue.

MAILING LIST/ADDITIONAL COPIES

If you would like to get on the mailing list for future issues of THE CWBH INTER-CHANGE or should you need additional copies of this newsletter, please contact Douglas Potter of South Carolina.

CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTED MATERIALS

ARTICLE

CWBH Progress in New Mexico

Statistical Packages Comparison

Washington EDP System Overview

CWBH EDP User Group

CWBH State Users Group

Decision Request Forms, CWBH Questionnaire Evaluation, Meetings, and Edit and Audit System

NAME

Ruby Peter, New Mexico

Sherryl Edge, Georgia

Howard Glastetter, Washington

Curt Harding, National Office J.J. Quargnenti, Georgia

Church William Toron

Chuck Wibe, Iowa

Wayne Zajac, National Office

<u>COMMUNICATION</u>

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PILOT STATE AGENCIES

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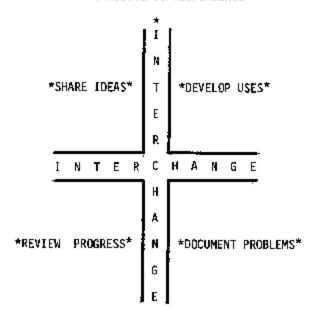
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THE CWBH INTERCHANGE

RECEPTION GOOD TO FIRST ISSUE

Your comments, suggestions, and contributed articles to THE CWBH INTERCHANGE'S first (same were welcomed and appreciated. THE CWBH INTERCHANGE has been developed to inform and share ideas about the CWBH program for the CWBH pilot project states.

Pertinent articles, requests for additional copies, or questions/comments for THE CWBH INTERCHANGE should be directed to:

Mr. Douglas S. Potter, Room 617 (803) 758-8983 S.C. Employment Security Commission Post Office Box 995 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

ADDITIONAL CLAIM CWBH QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE DROPPED

In its report "An Evaluation of the CWBH Questionnaire." Mathematica recommended that the requirement to collect supplemental questionnaires on additional claims be discontinued. The National Office is accepting this recommendation.

CWEH Pilot States are to discontinue collecting questionnaires from claimants who file additional claims after October 1, 1979. However, as is presently being done, a record type 3 shall be created for each new, additional, or transitional claim. States will continue to obtain questionnaires when transitional claims are filed.

Details on the data processing aspects of this decision will be issued after the EDP Users Group meeting in September.

REVISION TO FIRST ISSUE ARTICLE

The sentence in the CWBN EDP USER GROUP article in the last issue reading "Effective July 27, 1979, national office directives will be issued through the EDPUG" has been revised. It should have stated: Effective July 27, 1979, data elements, coding, and/or file structure system changes will be issued through the EDPUG.

THE CWBH INTERCHANGE is organized, edited, and typed by the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. Printing and distribution are handled by the State of Washington Employment Security Department.

USE OF CWBH IN LOUISIANA

A use of Louisiana's CWBL data bank in fiscal year 1980 will be the utilization of this data to produce one of the required Labor Market Information (LMI) Core Products publication, "Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed." This report is published in the Manpower Reviews and the Annual Planning Report.

Louisiana is also trying to validate their existing CWBH data by cross matching all similar data items with UI files. Their EDP section is presently writing a program and was expected to have run a test in the middle of August.

For more information about Louisiana's CMBH uses contact:

Ms. Pat Fuselier (504) 387-2192 Louisiana Department of Labor Office of Employment Security Post Office Box 44094 Baton Rouge, La. 70804

NEW CWBH MANUAL

A new and improved CWBH Manual is being developed and is expected to be completed within the next few months. The EDP Users Group is working on this project and a draft copy is due in the next couple of weeks.

CMBH TERMINALS

In order for pilot states to have access to the CWBH data base, funds are being made available through the Regional Offices for the purchase of a portable computer terminal. This will provide the CWBH states with the capability to perform research and program analysis on a state, regional, or national basis.

States should theck on the status of their SBR request and bid procedures (if necessary) in order that the computer terminal transactions are completed by September 30, 1979. If there are any questions, please call Pat Skees (202-376-6470) or Tony Baglio (202-376-7291).

MEETINGS.

A meeting of the National Office CWBH Work Group, the EDPUG chairman, and the State Users Group chairman is planned for September 17, 1979 in Washington, D.C.

The State Users Group will meet on October 9-11, 1979 in Washington, D.C. to discuss the effects of Mathematica's recommendations on the CWBH questionnaire.

MATHEMATICA AND THE CUBH EVALUATION

Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) is currently assisting the Department of Labor with two parts of the CWBH evaluation: an evaluation of the cuestionnaire and an analysis of the benefits and costs of the program. MPR will also evaluate the usefulness of the CWBH data base to provide measures of the tightness of labor markets. However, this task is not part of the CWBH evaluation.

The purpose of the evaluation of the CWBH questionnaire is to provide the CWBH National Office Work Group with information to make decisions on revisions in the design of the questionnaire and the methods used by the pilot states to collect the data. The evaluation has three parts. The first part evaluates how well the items selected for the questionnaire meet the research and reporting needs of potential users of the data. Part two analyzes the accuracy with which these items were measured in the questionnaires used by the pilot states. Response error in the questionnaire is estimated by comparing responses to the questionnaire to those from a telephone interview administered by MPR interviewers to a sample of claimants shortly after they completed the questionnaire. The third part of the evaluation examines the effect of claimants not completing questionnaires on the CWBH data base. A draft report of the first two parts of the questionnaire evaluation has been submitted to the National Office and the pilot states for comments. However, the analysis of nonresponse has not been completed because tapes needed for this analysis are not available.

The analysis of the benefits and costs of the CWBH project proceeds in three steps. Ffrst, MPP addresses the benefits that can be measured as reductions in the cost of current data collection and research activities and that are traceable to the introduction of CWBH. These benefits can then be subtracted from the cost of implementing and operating the CWBH project to calculate a "net cost" of CWBH; i.e., the "net cost" is the cost of CWBH that is not directly offset by a reduction in expenditures.

Second, MPR expands the analysis of CWBM benefits to include benefits that result from the expectation that CWBH will permit improved, expanded, and more timely analysis of policy issues than is currently possible without CWBH. Since there is no basis on which to value these particular benefits, their valuation must, by necessity, be somewhat subjective. Different policy makers will place different values and emphasis on these potential nonmeasurable benefits. Because of this, the aim of this paper is to assist the reader in comparing his or her valuation of these unmeasurable benefits (e.g., improved analysis) to the net cost of CWBH in order to judge the desirability of continuing or expanding the CWBH project.

Finally, MPR discusses the benefits and costs of several potential modifications to the CWBH system, including changes in sample size, changes in the structure of the data set, and expansion of the project to all states. A draft of this paper has also been submitted to the National Office.

If you have any questions or inquiries about the efforts of Mathematica and their CWBH research, get in touch with Curt Harding or Wayne Zajac of the National Office.

ES-203 DATA FROM THE CWBH DATA BASE

The Utah CWBH Data Base was used to produce the tables listed on the following pages which are simulations of the ES-203 Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed Federally required tape (Table I) and a regular Utah report, Industry by Major Occupation (Table II shown is for females, male and total tabs are also available). The tables do not contain Interstate Agent data as this data is not included in the CWBH Data Base. Nor do the tables contain all of the applicable intrastate data, because only those claimants who established a Benefit Year since December 31, 1978 are included in Utah's CWBH Data Base. Weeks paid during the keyweek were counted; however, CWBH allows for weeks claimed data. The only limitation to producing the ES-203 from CWBH is that the CWBH data base must be large enough to include the ES-203 sample. Social Security Numbers have been blanked out of these tables for confidentiality.

A modified COBOL Architect Program (CAP) generated program was used to produce the simulations. Only a small sample of the file was selected for Table I with criteria being Social Security Account Number end digits 05 and valid SIC Code.

The complete CWBH Data Base was used in creating Table II. Any selection criteria could be programmed. The important aspect of the simulation was the accessing of Record Types 2, 3 and 4 and combining and comparing them in a manner to produce the ES-203 required data. The report could have been just as easily spooled to a tape in the Federally required format.

The CMBH Data Base has many advantages over the ES-203 data, primarily in the much greater amount of UI and characteristics data available in CMBH. The only limitation to effectively using the data base is the scope of software packages available in the Agency. Even with as limited a package as CAP, a COBOL program was created which could easily be modified by a non-programmer with only a limited knowledge of COBOL to produce the attached report.

Consult with Utah's Ray Lambert at the address or phone number listed below to learn more about this,

Mr. Ray Lambert Utah Department of Employment Security 174 Social Hall Avenue Post Office Box 11249 Salt Lake City, Ut. 84147

Phone (801) 533-2747

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USER GROUP DBJECTIVES

The EDP (data processing) and State (research and analysis) User Groups serve as important media to communicate with the National Office on the direction and impact of the CWBM program on the 14 pilot states. The following paragraphs reflect the objectives of these two croups.

EDP USER GROUP

The CWBH State EDP Users Group (EDPUG) is oriented to data processing and any subjects that directly affect data processing. The EDPUG will define state and federal data processing needs as well as develop standards of documentation, data elements, and methods of communication of information to accomplish all EDPUG objectives. The EDP Users Group will formulate how and who will make changes effecting all data processing functions and will make recommendations as to when these changes should be made. Further, the EDP Users Group will evaluate and advise the CWBH National Office on all proposed system enhancements and proposed system additions to CWBH.

STATE USERS GROUP

The CWBH State Users Group has outlined two broad objectives which they are attempting to accomplish. These are: (1) to provide State understanding of the CWBH data base and assist in developing worthwhile uses—however, this should not imply that the State Users Group is responsible for specific uses for each state, which is each states own responsibility; (2) to motivate, stimulate, and provide assistance where possible to the pilot states for the utility of CWBH data; and (3) to work cooperatively with the National Office Work Group and the EDP Users Group in improving the CWBH system.

J.J. Quargnenti of Georgia and Chuck Wibe of Iowa are the respective chairpersons of the EDP and State Users Groups. Pilot states are urged to influence and respond to these groups.

CURRENT STATE SAMPLE SIZES

STATE	PERCENT	STATE	PERCENT
Georgia	20	New Yark	1
Idaho	20	Korth Carolina	5
Lowa	20	Pennsylvania	1
Louisiana	10	South Carolina	20
Missouri	5	ltah	100
Nevada	20	Washington	10
New Mexico	20	Misconsin	5

POTPOURRI

As you know, the Wagner-Peyser Act, which along with the Social Security Act are the cornerstone legislation of Employment Security agencies, is in the midst of possible revision and substantial changes. Three recent publications which may be of interest concerning this Act are listed below:

"Reflections on the Wagner-Peyser Act," May 1979, Background Paper by Mirlam Johnson prepared for the National Council on Employment Policy;

"Wagner-Peyser: Time for a Change?," June 1979, Policy Statement by the National Council on Employment Policy; and

"Employment Service: Amending the Wagner-Peyser Act," November 1978, Special Report by the National Institute of Public Management.

There are two Commissions authorized by Congress to investigate and recommend changes in Unemployment Compensation provisions and Employment/Unemployment Statistics. The National Commission on Unemployment Compensation has issued a First Interim Report (November 1978) and a Second "Final" Report (July 1979). The National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics has issued their final report containing several recommendations to improve counting of labor force participation. Everyone working with the UI program is urged to review these reports since they are expected to influence the UI system in the coming years.

The Nevada Employment Security Research (ESR) Section is currently assessing state UI research programs throughout the nation with the intent of developing a comprehensive set of recommendations for guiding this complex function in the coming years. The Nevada ESR Section, under contract to the Department of Labor-Unemployment Insurance Service, recently sent a questionnaire to each state concerning UI research. Results of this review are expected in January 1980.

A Quantitative Methods Seminar, sponsored by the Unemployment Insurance Service National Office was held on September 10-14, 1979 in Tempe, Arizona. The course is designed to teach technical aspects of statistics, research methodology, time series analysis, and econometrics to selected state personnel. Because of the heavy nomination demand, additional sessions are planned for the near future.

Management Engineers Incorporated (MEI), a private consultant firm, is under contract to the National Commission on Unemployment Compensation to produce a report titled "Analysis of Wage Record and Wage Request Reporting Systems in the Unemployment Compensation Program." The ultimate goal of the study is to recommend a preferred reporting system or to specify the conditions under which each reporting system would be best suited given each state's particular characteristics. MEI has surveyed each state for preliminary information and will probably be requesting additional data as their study progresses (no completion date has been announced yet).

ANOTHER WASHINGTON STATE EDP TOOL

Washington State manually writes the employer FIPS Code, federal ID, and SIC Code for the last employer on completed questionnaires. This is done prior to the data entry of the questionnaires. A convenient way to get this information is by producing an alphabetic listing of the over 150,000 state employers and their related codes (A shorter listing of the major employers is also produced).

However, a problem arises. For example, A \underline{B} C TRANSFER will sort long before rather than shortly after ABC RECORDING. In other words, imbedded blanks can change the collating sequence of the record. So can special characters or numbers. What about a "THE" in front of the company name?

To solve this problem, the Washington State CWBH group put together an E15 assembler sort exit. It will compress an alphabetic name, eliminating spaces, special characters and a beginning THE_ from the company name. Numbers are changed to the first letter of that number (i.e. 6 = 5, 2 = 7). The compressed field is then sorted.

The end result is a report that the customer can easily work with.

Are you interested in this technique or others mentioned in August's issue of THE GWBH INTERCHANGE? Give Howard Glastetter a call at (206) 753-1525 or drophim a note at the following address:

Mr. Howard M. Glastetter CWBM EDP Project Leader State of Washington Research and Statistics Employment Security Department Olympia, Wa. 98504

What have you been doing that might be shared?

CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTED MATERIALS

ARTICLE NAME

Additional Claim CWBH Questionnaire to Be Dropped, CWBH Terminals, Revision to First Issue Article

Use of CWBH in Louisiana

Mathematica and the CWBH Evaluation

ES-203 Data From the CWBH Data Base

Another Washington State EDP Tool

Curt Harding, National Office

Pat Fuselier, Louisiana

Richard Strouse, Mathematica

Ray Lambert, Utah

Howard Glastetter, Washington

THE CWBH INTERCHANGE

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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

OCTOBER 1979

BOEING DATA BASE SYSTEM FOR CWBH

The CWBH data base has been established at the Boeing Computer Services Center in Virginia through a set of state contracts. CWBH data tapes are now to be sent directly to the National Office, where they will be loaded to the Boeing system. The following key dates were given to the EDPUG and represent important events for the Boeing installation:

October 1, 1979 -States start using the Edit and Audit Package, Tapes mailed to the National Office:

October 15, 1979 -Boeing Data Base brought up; and
November/December 1979 - Training for Research & Analysis
(R&A) personnel in JCL for Boeing
terminals, Account numbers will be
assigned (Meetings will be held regionally).

Several statistical software packages and report generator languages are supposed to be available from Boeing via terminal access. Here is the list which was given to the EDPUG:

COBOL; Culprit; Easytrieve; Mark IV; ASI-ST; Safer Model; Mercer Model; Workload Model; Time Series (Box-Jenkins); SAS; SPSS; and BMD.

Questions concerning loading the CWBH data base to the Boeing system should be directed to Miro Medek and any questions concerning the terminals (JCL, applications, accounts, etc.) should be referred to Tony Baglio, both of the National Office. More information on the Boeing system will be given at the next CWBH conference.

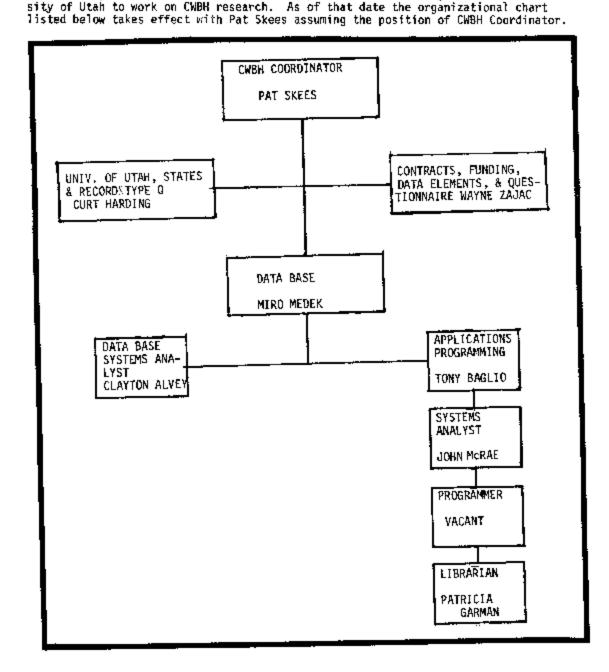
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Pertinent articles, letters to the editor, requests for additional copies, or questions/comments for THE CWBH INTERCHANGE should be forwarded to:

Mr. Douglas S. Potter, Room 617 S.C. Employment Security Commission Post Office Box 995 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Phone (803) 758-8983

Curt Harding left the National Office on September 20, 1979 to go to the Univer-



CWBH EDP USER GROUP MEETING

Several items came out of the EDP User Group (EDPUG) meeting held September 10-15, 1979 in Williamsburg, Virginia and should be mentioned here.

Every EDPUG member was assigned a "sister state." Before every meeting, the EDPUG member is to call their sister state and discuss items that need to be brought up at the meeting. After the meeting, the EDPUG member will call their sister state back and go over the progress and problems of the meeting. If you have anything that you feel needs to be brought up at the EDPUG meetings, let your sister state know. Listed below are the EDPUG states and their respective contacts.

EDPUG Member State Sister State Utah Nevada Louisiana Missouri South Carolina Lowa New York Pennsylvania Georgía New Mexico Idaho Washington North Carolina Wisconsin

Another point that was discussed was the CWBH Edit and Audit system. John Armstrong of the Unemployment Insurance Systems Design Center (UISDC) presented the documentation. It was approved, by the EDPUG, as being considerably better than the last time. The Edit and Audit tapes and documentation should have been received by all states. If a state has not received the Edit and Audit package, contact John Armstrong at 1-800-535-8100. If a state has any problems implementing the Edit and Audit system, call John Armstrong at the phone number listed above. Any tapes produced after October 1, 1979 should be run through the Edit and Audit by the state before submitting it to the National Office.

Dick Juve of Idaho and an EDPSG member has departed the Idaho agency. His vacant EDPUG position will be filled at the next CWBH conference.

The first draft of the revised CWBH Manual was reviewed, several changes made, and new sections added. The final draft from the EDPUG will be presented at the next CWBH conference for the states' changes and approval.

Several other topics were discussed at the EDPUG meeting, but as of this writing most of them are changing. EDPUG members are encouraged to keep in touch with their sister state. If there are any questions about the recent EDPUG meeting or future EDPUG actions contact a member of EDPUG (see Volume 1, Number 1 CWBH INTERCHANGE for a list of EDPUG members).

ADDITIONAL CLAIM QUESTIONNAIRE DATA FIELDS

As of October 1, 1979, all CWBX questionnaire data fields in Record Type 3, for an additional claim record, should be coded as information not available (INA).

CWBH STATE USERS GROUP

The CWBH State Users Group met on October 9-11, 1979 in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) evaluation of the CWBH questionnaire and their proposals for modification with the National Office and Richard Strouse of MPR. In addition, the CWBH Users Group spent time discussing the content of the special uses of CWBH workshop at the next CWBH conference in November. Several other topics (such as OMB data reduction efforts and the Boeing system) were reviewed.

After covering the MPR evaluation and the Boeing data base on the first and second days, Thursday morning was spent discussing the workshop for the next CWBH conference. The CWBH Users Group has been allotted approximately four hours for the workshop. The first item on the agenda will be the election or reelection of members to the CWBH Users Group. Then, the National Office will demonstrate access to the CWBH data base using the Boeing Computer Service(BCS). To date, Idaho and Iowa have agreed to make presentations on how they are currently using CWBH data. Other states will hopefully be added to the agenda to demonstrate their present or future CWBH data uses.

Suggestions and ideas for the workshop at the next conference should be sent to the CWBH State Users Group chairperson, Chuck Wibe of Iowa.

STATUS OF THE CWBH QUESTIONNAIRE

The National Office Work Group met on September 17, 1979 to go over the changes to the CWBH model questionnaire as recommended by Mathematica Policy Research (MPR). The Work Group has accepted suggestions to drop vocational-technical schooling and employer name/address from the questionnaire. Several other minor changes were adopted for incorporation into a new model questionnaire and will be discussed at the next CWBH conference.

The layout of the questionnaire will be to group questions in the following categories: location; demographic; employment; pension (yes-no, optional for type); household; and income. Further work will be done by MPR on the job separation and income questions. MPR will be sent nonmonetary determinations data from those states participating in the evaluation. These determinations will be analyzed along with questionnaire and telephone follow-up responses to determine the quality of the data on the job separation question.

There is still considerable interest by the CWBM Work Group at the National Office in the income question even though the MPR evaluation shows it to be unreliable in the form presently asked. MPR will undertake testing of three forms of this question: the Georgia version; a MPR version; and the Census 1970 version. A control group will also be used to determine if omission of the income question has an effect on response rates.

Until MPR finishes their new evaluation, the CWBH questionnaire will remain as it is. After the evaluation (scheduled for completion around the end of the first quarter 1980), states will be required to implement the new questionnaire within a definite period of time for conversion. States should be thinking about the time needed to convert to this new questionnaire.

NEW ADDRESS FOR TRANSMITTAL OF CWBH DATA

After October 1, 1979, CWBH Data Tapes passing the Edit and Audit are to be sent directly to the National Office at the following address:

CWBH PROJECT Room 7402 Patrick Henry Building 601 D Street, Northwest Washington, D.C. 20213

DATA BASE DESIGN AND CONSIDERATIONS

States may be interested in reviewing a recently acquired report concerning design and analysis techniques for large data files. The National Bureau of Standards Special Publication 503 is titled "Computer Science and Statistics: Tenth Annual Symposium on the Interface" and was issued in February 1978. This paper describes issues related to the design and analysis of large data files and also covers statistical issues in the analysis of large data files. A copy of this report will be sent to the pilot state coordinators and anyone else who may request it.

MEETINGS

The EDP User Group met on October 17-19, 1979 in Washington, D.C. Topics scheduled for the agenda include the CWBH Manual, a review of CWBH data elements and file organization, and several miscellaneous items.

Information has been sent to the Regional Offices (Field Memo 458-79) concerning the next CWBH conference. The meeting will be held in San Francisco, California on November 13-15, 1979.

In conjunction with the use of the Boeing CWBH data base, a training course will be held on October 22 and 23, 1979 in Washington, D.C. on the use of the statistical software package SAS. The two day seminar, sponsored and conducted by Boeing, will be an introduction to SAS and will not use any CWBH data as the training is geared for all Boeing clients. The Unemployment Insurance Service is planning a comprehensive training course in late November or early December on the use of Boeing's services.

JUSTIFICATION OF CWBH SAMPLE SIZES

At the next CWBH conference in San Francisco in November 1979, each state will be requested to justify from statistical considerations their CWBH sample size for statewide use. This justification is needed for the benefit of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB is very concerned about the state's reporting burden and the large amount of data storage cost for the national data base.

UI COST REDUCTION PROPOSALS

The Honorable David L. Boren (Senator-Oklahoma), Chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Unemployment and Related Problems, issued on August 6, 1979 a list of various proposals for reducing costs and improving the budgetary status of the Unemployment Insurance program. The National Commission on Unemployment Compensation has agreed to incorporate into its work plan issues relating to possible UI cost reduction and budgetary status improvement including but not limited to Senator Boren's list. A short summary of Senator Boren's proposal is listed below.

- Require disqualification for duration of unemployment for voluntary quits, discharge for misconduct, and refusal of suitable work;
- Require that states not pay benefits beyond 13 weeks to an individual refusing any reasonable job offer;
- Require that states not pay benefits on the basis of predictable layoffs from seasonal employment;
- Require all states to establish a one-week waiting period;
- Provide increased assistance to States in control of error and fraud;
- Eliminate the national trigger for the extended benefit program;
- Permit States to establish optional extended benefit trigger at higher insured unemployment levels;
- Provide incentives for Federal agencies to contest improper benefit claims;
- Modify trade adjustment assistance program to provide same benefit amount as regular program;
- Require states to pay interest on funds borrowed from Federal accounts; and
- Provide for reduction of benefits when the unemployed individual is receiving a pension based on recent employment.

States are encouraged to submit their comments to the National Commission on Unemployment Compensation.

BOEING CWBH DATA BASE RETRIEVAL COSTS

States are reminded that the costs associated with the use of the Boeing CWBH data base through their terminal is not a "single cost" operation. In other words, a cost is charged for each particular computer resource used such as connect time, data base loads, file storage, and printouts. States are urged to carefully analyze Boeing's cost schedule/priority system and to keep an up-to-date accounting of their usage of the Boeing system as well as to plan wisely their utilization. The allocated amount of \$36.000 a year may seem like a lot of money, but it won't go as far as you might think using this expensive computer service.

Response and positive comments concerning the Potpourri column in the last issue of THE CWBH INTERCHANGE has resulted in the establishment of these articles as a regular feature. The intent of the Potpourri write-ups is to provide useful information and resources about CWBH related topics. UI operational issues, or UI research/legislative program areas. Coverage will include special surveys, training seminars, published reports, and/or legislation of particular interest. Anyone with questions or suggestions should contact Doug Potter of South Carolina.

The National Commission on Unemployment Compensation (NCUC) released a special report in August 1979 titled "Reinsurance of State Unemployment Compensation Plans and Federal Taxable Wage Base: Summary of Responses to the National Commission on Unemployment Compensation." This document represents a comprehensive collection of the NCUC materials, private/public comments, and background information regarding reinsurance/cost equalization and the Federal taxable wage base. The address for the NCUC is:

1815 Lynn Street, Room 440 Rosslyn Station Arlington, Virginia 22209

Phone (703) 235-2782

A report of particular interest to UI analysts who periodically deal with LMI and CETA planners was recently published by the Center for Labor Market Studies of Northeastern University. The research paper (prepared by Russell Ganz and Andrew Sum) is titled "The Role of Unemployment Insurance Based Data Sources in Planning Employment and Training Programs." This study contains a detailed examination of several key issues involved in the development of a UI claimant data base for human resource planning.

"Exploratory Measures of Labor Market Influences of the Employment Service" is a report of findings by Arnold Katz of the University of Pittsburgh Economics Department. Based on a pilot study in Pennsylvania using a merged Employment Service/CWBH data base, this analysis develops exploratory measures of contributions of the Employment Service to the search time and individual earnings of job applicants.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has issued two reports in the past several months dealing with unemployment. According to their report, "Unemployment Insurance: Inequities and Work Disincentives" (HRD-79-79, August 26, 1979), UI benefits have increased to such an extent that many recipients have little financial incentive to find jobs. Another GAO policy paper, "Reliable Local Unemployment Estimates: A Challenge for Federal and State Cooperation" (GGD-79-79, July 27, 1979), suggests that the Labor Department and the states should review the problems of estimating local employment and unemployment statistics.

POTPOURRI (Continued from previous page)

The "Statistical Policy Handbook" is issued from the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. Its purpose is to provide a convenient source of Federal statistical Directives, information about interagency committees which have a significant role in Federal statistics, and publications of the Office. Directive No. 2 of this Handbook is applicable to the CWBH project and may be of some use to some states. It is named "Standards for the Publication of Statistics" and a copy will be sent to the pilot state coordinators or anyone else who may request it.

For those people interested in the direction of the Labor Market Information (LMI) program, several groups have released specific recommendations about the future of LMI. The most notable of these groups include the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies (ICESA) and the National Governor's Association.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

While wholeheartedly in favor of the move to Boeing services and the very positive advantages they offer, I do have a comment to make relative to a possible future problem. My concern is simply that a state may take the easy way out and end up depending entirely upon Boeing for its analytical capability. In the long run this would seem a poor choice as data other than CWBH is in need of analysis by research units. What I am saying is that if a state has limited capabilities now, they would be wise to continue to try to upgrade (software packages, etc.) even though using Boeing.

Sincerely,

John Steinman, Resident CWBH Critic (Crank)

NAME

also stewar

CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTED MATERIALS

ARTICLE

CWBH EDP User Group Meeting, Boeing Data Base System for CWBH, and National Office Reorganization

Letter to the Editor John Steinman, Nevada

New Address for Transmittal of CWBH Data and Additional Claim Questionnaire Data Fields

Pat Skees, National Office

Pat Ellis, South Carolina

CWBH State Users Group Chuck Wibe, Ipwa

THE CWBH INTERCHANGE

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CMBN CONFERENCE REVIEW

The recent CWBH conference was neld (in San Francisco, California on November 13-15, 1979) so that CMBH pilot states could be updated on various project related issues. These word: (1) Mathematica's questionnaire and benefit-cost analysis of CWBH; (2) required justification of each state's sample size; (3) proposed data element changes; and (4) Speing Computer Service's housing of the data base.

Richard Strouse of Mathematica Policy Research reviewed both the CWBH questionnaire evaluation and the CWBH benefit-cost analysis. He went into a detailed explanation of the purposes and methodology of their report along with detailed conclusions and suggestions contained in each. It was pointed out by Mr. Strouse that none of these changes should be implemented until Mathematica's report on non-response has been completed.

Doug Potter of South Carolina and Curt Harding of the University of Utah presented information concerning the upcoming state sample size justification. The intent have was to give some ideas to the states on how to go about justifying their sample sizes. Mr. Potter and Mr. Harding both emphasized that nothing could be done in this area unless some specific uses of the data are determined.

The proposed data element changes were presented by Pat Skees. He pointed out that any item deleted from the National Office requirements could be retained by the state in their expansion fields. He emphasized that none of the changes have been finalized yet and that a letter would soon be out requesting RSA comments on any proposed changes. (See QUESTIONNAIRE/DATA ELEMENT STATUS).

A presentation of the services available to Boeing Computer Service (BCS) users was given by BCS representatives. Features of their equipment (both hardward and software), along with the availibility of technical assistance for users were the major points dis-cussed. A detailed comparison of the SAS and SPSS statistical software packages was also presented by BCS. The firm brought in their experts in these packages to discuss the pros and cons of each.

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> Mr. Douglas S. Potter, Room 617 S.C. Employment Security Commission Post Office Box 995 Columbia, Smuth Carolina 29202

QUESTIONNAIRE/DATA ELEMENT STATUS

The National Office staff has met with Arnold Strasser and Sob Rideout of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and also with the National Office Workgroup during the past few weeks concerning the CMBH project. The results of these meetings are as follows:

- There will be no change in CWBF record formats, questionnaire format or data definitions for calendar year 1980. A revised questionnaire will be announced July 1, 1980, for implementation in January 1981;
- States may use local office handout or mail questionnaire methods.
 States using personal interview techniques will begin making plans to cease interviewing; and
- 3.) Questionnaire data will not be collected on additional initial claims.

By the National Office agreeing to the above, OMB will approve the CWBH questionnaire and most State funding for FY 1981.

CWBH USES AND SAMPLE

At the San Francisco Conference, the CMBF sample size and technique was discussed. The general consensus was that each state needed to decide on their intended uses of the data and then decide on the sample size that would provide valid results for their projected uses. It was agreed that Mr. Curtis Harding would pursue the metter with the states.

Since the Conference he has conferred with representatives of the National Office and has come up with the following procedures (contained in his December 3, 1979 letter to CMBH coordinators):

- 1.) Each state should determine its CWBH uses and output and decide on two or more they see as worthwhile to their state. In selecting these studies, card should be taken to see that the selection made is representative of samples needed for typical CWBH program studies. It is suggested that at least one of the studies respond to one or more of the areas of interest set forth in the Finance Committee Print 96-26 "Various Proposals for Consideration" (Senator Boren's Finance Subcommittee's 11 recommendations to reduce UI program costs); and
- After likely areas of analysis have been determined, a sample size should be selected that will produce acceptable results. The findings should be documented and sent to Mr. Earding.

Projected dates as to when each state can commence, Finish their studies, and determine their sample size would be appreciated. These should also be sent to Mr. Harding at:

Mr. Curtis Härding 2545 - Lynweod Drive Salt Lake City, Utah - 84109

DATA VARIANCES/COMMENTS

During the recent CWBH conference in San Francisco each pilot state was asked to:

- 1.) Review the CMBH Manual and make comments on it;
- 2.) Provide comments on record and data modifications; and
- Revise and update the National Office concerning data elements that are at variance with CWBF definitions.

A memorandum, dated December 4, 1979, has been sent to each CWBH coordinator and EDP representative requesting that this information be submitted to the National Office by January 14, 1980. Attached to the memo is a Data Element Revision Form that should be used in updating the National Office concerning data variances.

MONITORING OF FUNDS

All CWBH pilot States should be aware of the importance of monitoring the funds granted to States for CWBH. In essence, there must be a direct correlation between the amount of funds expended and the work produced. The National Office will be watching this closely during Fiscal Year 1980. Cost accounting reports 95 and 92 will be checked to determine what States are spending (charging to code 210445) on CWBH and then comparing this with work produced by the States. Using CWBH funds for other purposes is a no-no! See Field Memorandum 145-79.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CWBH QUESTIONNAIRE

A revised CWBH Questionnaire is under development as reported in the last CWGH INTERCHANGS and at the San Francisco Conference. States should be thinking about implementation but recognize that the National Office does not expect any State to use the new questionnaire prior to January 1, 1981. The exact implementation date will be selected probably at the next conference so States have adequate time to convert. States should continue to use their present CWBH Questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE COLLECTION PROCEDURE

The Mathematics evaluation found no significant difference in data accuracy among the various methods of questionnaire administration—mail, local office hand out, and interview. The effect on response rate, however, has not yet been determined. States using a mail or office hand out system can expect no change to their system. States using interviews should examine the other methods to determine the feasibility of switching. The National Office will be "encouraging" States using an interview system to switch to a mail or hand out system in order to reduce costs.

CWBH STATE USER GROUP

At the San Francisco Conference, the State User Group for the coming year was elected. Doug Potter of South Carolina, Sherryl Edge of Georgia, Lloyd Herod of Idaho and Ray Lambert of Utah were all placed on the group for another year. Gary Godeutsch of Mashington will be the fifth member of the group.

No chairman of the group has been selected as of yet, however, this is of great importance as the chairman attends meetings of the National Office CWBH Work Group. Sherryl Edge has been suggested for this position and she has indicated that if this is the consensus of the group she will serve. This should be determined soon for the members of the group are at present corresponding by mail on this issue.

The first meeting of the new User Group will possibly be in Idaho during the latter part of January. The chairman, once selected, can proceed with coordinating the first meeting's agenda and User Group projects for the coming year.

MR. HARDING RELOCATES TO UTAH

Mr. Curtis Farding, former National Office CWBH Coordinato. Was now relocated to Salt Lake City, Utah. He will continue his association with the CWBH project working with the States and the State User Groups in the areas of: (1) determination of state uses: (2) data element review; and (3) establishment of Record Type \emptyset . He will be operating from three locations in Salt Lake City; his home, the University of Utah, and the Utah Bepartment of Employment Security. The telephone numbers are:

Residence	801-467-1673
University of Utah	801-581-6127
Utah Department of Employment Security	801-533-2201

Any correspondence should be directed to his home address:

2545 Lynwood Drive Salt Lake City, Stah 84109

NEXT CWBH CONFERENCE

The National Office plans for the next CWBH Conference to be in the Washington, D.C. area. May 1980 appears to be the best month, probably the third week in the month. Expect a registration fee of about \$15.00 or \$20.00.

POTPOURRI

The Unemployment Insurance Service (UIS) of the U.S. Department of Labor (DDL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is initiating an "Unemployment Insurance Research Exchange" in Fiscal Year 1980. This exchange, to be published periodically, is intended to provide ready access to research information, to facilitate communication among those working in related research areas, and to prevent duplication. Currently, no systematic means exist to disseminate information about research pertaining to the UI program that is produced in the State Employment Security Agencies, DDL, National Commission on Unemployment Compensation, colleges and universities, and other private research institutions. The first issue is expected to be produced in the first few months of 1980.

There are many we'll organized and informative newsletters currently being produced that should be of great interest to anyone involved in UI and Employment Security research. These are:

- ETA-LMI BULLETIN-This newsletter is produced by the National Office LMT Division of the Department of Labor-ETA;
- THE ΔΝΛLYST FXCHANGE-This newsletter is published bimonthly by the U.S. Department of Labor-ETA, Region VIII. It provides much useful information for management analysts;
- 3.) THE ADVISCR-This newsletter is published pariodically by the Ememployment Benefits Advisors (UBA) Corporation. This firm, based in Mashington, D.C., provides up-to-date reporting and analysis of National UI proposed and enacted legislation; and
- 4.) THE BULLETIN-This is another Unemployment Benefits Advisors, Corporation publication that is released by the firm's Research and Education Division. This publication is directed more toward reporting and analysis on state UC legislation and comparative UI statistics.

The North Carolina Unemployment Insurance Research Center of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina with assistance from the Office of Actuarial Services, Unemployment Insurance Service of the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor has prepared a manual entitled Methods of Estimating Unemployment Insurance Benefit Costs. The purpose of the manual is to describe, explain, and illustrate various methods which are applicable in the estimation of benefit costs generated by the benefit provisions of state Unemployment Insurance laws within the economic setting in which they operate. It is intended to serve as a reference guide to individuals estimating the impact on benefit costs of economic and legislative changes.

A letter has been sent out by the National Cormission on Unemployment Compensation (NCUC) to all RAA directors. In this letter Mr. Robert Crosslin, whose job it is to provide the NCUC with information for consideration, has requested that each state provide him with information regarding their methods used to finance benefits. These statistics will help the NCUC study the variety of methods states use to finance 31 benefits.

USE OF CWBFF IN WASHINGTON

The Washington State law changed the UI eligibility requirement from weeks worked to hours worked, effective October 1978. This change required a reporting by employers of both weeks worked and hours worked for three quarters. For the CMDH sample we captured both of these items. We have produced matrices of hours worked and weeks worked by industry classifications and by quarter. This information may be of interest to states having legislative inquiries on an hours-worked eligibility requirement. Copies of the tabulations were distributed at the San Francisco CWBH Conference. Copies are available from Cary Bodoutsch at the following address:

Gary Bodeutsch State of Washington Research and Statistics Employment Security Department Olymoia, Washington 98504

NATIONAL OFFICE CWBH REORGANIZATION-ADDITIONAL NOTES

Questionnaire Collection Procedure

In the October issue of the CWBK INTERCHANGE, an organizational chart of the National Office CWBH staff was presented. It has been brought to our attention that the chart design is not entirely accurate. All personnel that are working on the design and applications of the CWBH Data Base (Miro Medek, Clayton Alvey, Tony Baglio and John McRae) are, in reality, employees of Genasys, Inc. and not the Department of Labor. Genasys, Inc. is currently under contract with the Department of Labor to design the CWBH Data Base. A personnel change in the National Office staff has also occurred since October. Patricia Sarman has left the National Office and at the current time the librarian position is vacant.

CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTED MATERIALS

<u>ARTICLE</u> NAME

CWBH State User Group Sherryl Edge, Georgia

Data Variance/Comments, Questinnnaire/
Data Clement Status Pat Skees, National Office

Mr. Hardino Relocates to Utah.

CWBR Uses and Sample Curtis Harding, University of Utah

Monitoring of Funds, Next CMBH Conference, Implementation of New CMBH Questionnaire,

Wayne Zajac, National Office

Use of CWBE in Washington Gary Bodeutsch, Washington